

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 5-16, as amended, remain herein.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of former claim 3. Independent claim 10 is a combination of original claims 1 and 4.

Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Onishi U.S. Patent 6,909,282 in view of Okumara JP 2001-165609. Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under §103(a) over Onishi '282 and Okumara JP '609, further view of Bergstedt U.S. Patent 5,602,472.

The relevant subject matter disclosed in Onishi and the invention being claimed in the present application were, at the time the presently claimed invention was made, commonly owned by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (MEI), or subject to an obligation of assignment to MEI under §103(c)(1). Thus, Onishi does not preclude patentability of the presently claimed invention.

However, applicants also note similarities between disclosure in Ichiro JP2002-213910A (not co-owned by MEI), and the Onishi '282 disclosure.

Okumura and Bergstedt describe detachable ferromagnetic bodies. See Okumura Figs. 2 and 3; see also Bergstedt Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 9-22. Applicants' invention comprises a ferromagnetic body encircling one of the first or the second magnets, and incorporated in one of the first or second detecting rotators. See independent claim 1. None of Onishi '282 (or Ichiro JP '910), or Bergstedt describes, teaches, or suggests a ferromagnetic body that encircles one of

the first or the second magnets, and is incorporated in one of the first or second detecting rotators.

Further, in applicants' claimed invention the ferromagnetic body is rotatable with the detecting rotator in which it is incorporated. See independent claim 1. None of Onishi, Ichiro, Okumura, or Bergstedt, describes, teaches, or suggests that such a ferromagnetic body is rotatable.

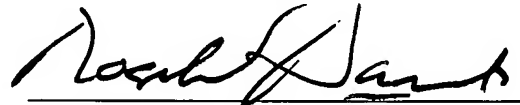
For all of the foregoing reasons there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Onishi '282, Okumura JP '609, Bergstedt '472, or Ichiro JP '910 which would have suggested applicants' presently claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Nor is there any disclosure in any of those references which would have suggested the desirability of combining any portion thereof effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of all claims 1, 2, and 5-16 are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28954.2009).

Should the Examiner believe that any further change would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Parkhurst", written over a horizontal line.

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